

Appl. No. 09/993,567

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-18 are now present in this application.

Claims 11-18 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

It is noted that the instant Amendment is supplemental to the Amendment filed on January 12, 2004. Therefore, the remarks of this prior Amendment are incorporated herein by reference. It is submitted that the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection, as well as the 35 USC 102(e) rejection and the 35 USC 103 rejections are all again respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

In the instant Amendment, the limitations of claims 1 and 5 have been combined into new independent claim 11. This claim recites a directional switch with a base block, control unit, and a lid encasing the control unit. In addition, a lining pad is located between the depressing block and the elastic member. The lining pad has four ends which each have a strut in a center which has an indented section. The conductive member has an operative opening for the indented section to pass through. By adding a lining pad such as 5, this will prevent the depressing block 4 from directly contacting the conductive member 6, and causing abrasion to the conducting member. It is respectfully submitted that the SATO et al. patent alone or as modified by the teachings of YAMASAKI et al. would neither suggest nor render obvious this limitation of claim 11 or its dependent claims 12-18. In addition, independent claim 1

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and its dependent claims should also be in condition for allowance. All claims in the instant application should now be allowable.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Because the first Amendment of January 12, 2004 was timely filed with a one (1) month extension of time, no further extensions of time should be necessary. If, however, this understanding is in error, please consider this a petition for extension of time and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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2450-0469P

By Joe McKinney Muncy
Joe McKinney Muncy, #32,334

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 09/30/03)